

Serial No.: 10/849,742

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-56 are pending in the application.

REMARKS

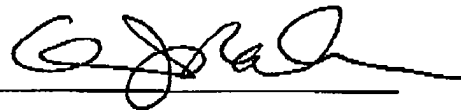
Restriction is required to one of the following allegedly distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 1-30 and 53-56, drawn to a medical device, classified in class 424, subclass 423+.
- II. Claims 31-52, drawn to a method of providing a medical device, classified in class 424, subclass 423+.

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121, applicants hereby elect the Group I claims, i.e. claims 1-30 and 53-56, with traverse, for initial prosecution on the merits. This election is made with traverse as it is believed that search and examination of all pending claims may be made without serious burden.

Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of the application, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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